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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 7, 8, 29, 30, 34-36, and 48-55 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11-12 were previously cancelled. Claims 2-6, 9, 10, 13-28, 31-33, and 37-47 have been cancelled herein as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

The Examiner rejects Claims 7, 29, 30, 34-36, and 47-51, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,105,076 to Simmons et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse. In order to establish anticipation of a claim, each and every limitation of the claim must be found in the prior art. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1997??). Moreover, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim". *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 913, 920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended Claim 29 to more clearly define Applicants' invention, which now calls for:

A concealed sprinkler head comprising:
a sprinkler body having a central axis and a central
orifice disposed about said central axis, said central orifice

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defining an inlet and an outlet, and said inlet configured for attachment to a fire extinguishing fluid supply line;
a deflector movably mounted to said sprinkler body;
a sealing assembly for sealing said outlet;
a thermally sensitive trigger assembly configured to releasably urge said sealing assembly into sealing engagement with said outlet;
a housing attached to said sprinkler body and having a bottom extending beyond said outlet, said thermally sensitive trigger assembly positioned between said outlet and said bottom of said housing; and
a cover plate removably mounted to said bottom of said housing, said cover plate having a central portion and a periphery extending around said central portion, said central portion having an outer surface lying in a plane generally orthogonal to said central axis, said plate further including arcuate portions extending inwardly from said periphery to said central portion, said arcuate portions projecting outwardly from said plane away from said sprinkler body in a direction generally along said central axis and forming a plurality of radially spaced and radially extending passageway sections having portions offset outwardly from said plane and in said direction and configured to enable air to travel between said periphery and said bottom of said housing and towards the thermally sensitive trigger assembly.

Applicants respectfully urge that Simmons et al. do not disclose or suggest the claimed combination. For example, Simmons et al. do not disclose or suggest a cover plate having a central portion and a periphery, with the plate further including arcuate portions extending inwardly from the periphery to the central portion, which project outwardly from the plane away from the sprinkler body in a direction generally along the central axis of the sprinkler head body and which form a plurality of radially spaced and radially extending passageway sections having portions offset outwardly from the plane of the outer surface of the cover plate to enable air to travel between the periphery and the bottom of the housing and toward the thermally sensitive trigger assembly.

With respect to Claim 30, Claim 30 has also been amended to call for:

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The concealed sprinkler head of claim 29, wherein
said cover plate has generally planar portions extending between
said arcuate portions.

Applicants similarly urge that Simmons et al. do not disclose or suggest the
claimed combination. Applicants respectfully urge that Simmons et al. do not disclose or
suggest a concealed sprinkler plate cover that includes a plurality of arcuate portions and a
plurality of generally planar portions extending between the arcuate portions. Therefore,
Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 29 and its dependent claims, namely Claim 30 and
new Claims 52 and 53, are patentably distinguishable over Simmons et al.

With reference to Claim 35, Claim 35 has been amended to call for:

A concealed sprinkler head comprising:
a sprinkler body having a central axis and central
orifice disposed about said central axis, said central orifice
defining an inlet and an outlet, said inlet configured for attachment
to a fire extinguishing fluid supply line;
a deflector movably mounted to said sprinkler body;
a sealing assembly for sealing said outlet;
a thermally sensitive trigger assembly configured to
releasably urge said sealing assembly into sealing engagement with
said outlet;
a housing attached to said sprinkler body and
having a bottom extending beyond said outlet, said thermally
sensitive trigger assembly positioned between said outlet and said
bottom of said housing; and
a cover plate removably mounted to said bottom of
said housing, said cover plate having an inner surface facing said
housing, an outer surface having planar portions, and a periphery,
other portions of said plate projecting outwardly in a direction
generally along said central axis away from said housing, said
other portions forming passageway sections extending inwardly
from said periphery to enable air to travel between said periphery
and said bottom of said housing and towards said thermally
sensitive trigger assembly.

Applicants respectfully urge that Simmons et al. do not disclose or suggest the
claimed combination. For example, Simmons et al. do not disclose or suggest a concealed

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sprinkler head cover plate with an outer surface having planar portions and other portions of the cover plate projecting outwardly and being spaced outwardly from said planar portions away from said housing along the central axis of the sprinkler head body wherein the other portions form passageways that extend radially inward from the periphery to enable air to travel from the peripheral edge inwardly to the thermally sensitive trigger assembly.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 35 and its dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over Simmons et al. alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

With reference to Claim 47, Claim 47 has been cancelled, with its dependent claims, namely Claims 49-51, amended to depend from new Claim 55.

Applicants respectfully urge that new Claim 55 is patentably distinguishable over Simmons et al. alone or in combination with any prior art of record. For example, Applicants respectfully urge that Simmons et al. do not disclose or suggest a cover plate having a generally planar central portion, a perimeter portion extending around the central portion, and a peripheral edge, which extends around the peripheral portion, with the perimeter portion having a plurality of radially spaced arcuate portions extending between the central portion and the peripheral edge, which project outwardly from the plane of the central portion to form a plurality of radially spaced passageways, which extend inwardly from said peripheral edge. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 55 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 48-51 are similarly patentably distinguishable over Simmons et al.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmons et al.

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Claim 8 ultimately depends from Claim 55 and, hence, is patentably distinguishable over Simmons et al. for at least the reasons set forth above in reference to Claim 55.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully urge that all claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit a Notice to that effect.

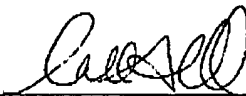
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn and Burkhardt, LLP

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